

Date: July 21, 1999

DSL-BQA-99-042

To:	Nursing Homes	NH - 20
	Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled	FDD 16
	Hospitals	HOSP 15
	Hospices	HSPCE 13
	End Stage Renal Dialysis Units	ESRD 04
	Ambulatory Surgical Centers	ASC 05
	Adult Family Homes	AFH 07
	Community Based Residential Facilities	CBRF 15
	Residential Care Apartment Complexes	RCAC 06

From: Susan Schroeder, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

Recall of Air Conditioner and Heat Pump Electrical Capacitors
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Attached is a copy of the Carrier Corporation voluntary recall program to replace electrical capacitors in packaged terminal air conditioners and heat pumps manufactured between January, 1993, and March, 1995. We ask that you share this information with your staff, taking whatever action is appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call David R. Soens, P.E., Quality Assurance Engineer, Provider Regulation & Quality Improvement Section at (608) 261-5993.

Carrier Corporation
PTAC Customer Support Center
PO Box 4808, TR18S
Carrier Parkway
Syracuse, New York, 13221
Phone (800) 894-6449
Fax (800) 295-2391

May 27, 1999

Dear American Society for Health Care Engineering member:

We are writing to alert you to some very important safety information concerning certain Carrier air conditioning and heat pump products that are used primarily in (hotel/motel, health care) installations.

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Carrier Corporation has initiated a voluntary recall program to replace electrical capacitors in packaged terminal air conditioners (PTACs) and heat pumps manufactured between January, 1993 and March, 1995. The PTACs and heat pumps affected have model numbers beginning with "52S" or "52E," and serial numbers ranging from 0193E00000 through 1395E99999.

The capacitors in question were sourced from an outside supplier. Under certain conditions, these capacitors can fail, rupture and possibly ignite, spreading fire to other components within the unit's control box. Carrier and the CPSC are aware of eight such incidents, out of approximately 100,000 units manufactured during this period. This ignition could escape the control box and create a safety risk. However, there have not been any reports of personal injury as a result of these incidents.

Carrier PTACs and heat pumps were manufactured with beige, plastic louvered front covers. The portion of the unit located inside the room measures 42-in. (w) x 16-in. (h). Facility owners and managers are advised to check the model and serial number of their PTAC units by first unplugging the unit, then removing the front plastic panel. The model and serial numbers are located on a sticker to the right of the unit's filter.

If you have a unit that meets the criteria described above and on the attached fact sheet [not available on the Internet], or if you have any questions, please contact Carrier's PTAC customer support center at 1-800-894-6449, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (EDT), Monday through Friday.

Carrier has arranged to have an Independent Service Provider correct the problem by removing and replacing the affected capacitors, thus eliminating the potential for component failure and the subsequent safety risk. Parts and labor for this repair will be provided to the customer at no charge. In addition, the new capacitor comes with a one-year parts and labor warranty.

The recall does not affect Carrier packaged terminal units with serial numbers outside the range, or any Carrier window/room air conditioners and heat pumps or central air conditioners and heat pumps.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in helping us to correct this potential safety problem. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause, and appreciate your continued support.